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BARTLETT

# Charles Bartlett's NEWS FOCUS On Washington

WASHINGTON—President Johnson has ordered John Gronouski, the new ambassador to Poland, to be his unofficial emissary to all the Eastern European countries. He told the former postmaster general that he wants direct reports from him on all those nations and that copies of his reports should go to Sec. of State Dean Rusk. The President brushed aside Gronouski's protest, that this unusual assignment will get him into trouble with the State Department by observing that Gronouski is not, after all, a career man. The President said the State Department sometimes keeps ambassadors' reports from reaching his desk.

## New Fulbright Phase?

A NEW PHASE of the vendetta between Sen. William J. Fulbright and the administration may erupt from the Arkansan's interest in learning why Rusk did not deal candidly with the Foreign Relations Committee on United Nations Sec.-Gen. Thant's peace feeler. Fulbright wrote Rusk early last winter to ask about the overture from Thant and received an ambiguous reply. He has now written again to request more information, and hearings by his Foreign Relations Committee may be in prospect.

## Head-Start False Start

PRESIDENT JOHNSON incurred unnecessary bitterness for the poverty program when he announced a broad extension of the Head-Start project last August and subsequently failed to provide the money to finance it. His announced plan, which contemplated year-round centers for needy children, would have cost \$450,000,000, but the agency has only received \$150,000,000. The Washington headquarters is being deluged as a consequence with angry letters from disappointed parents around the country.

## Plugging The Leaks

THE PRESIDENT'S dislike of leaks to the newspapers grows more pronounced. He postponed the announcement of a new food-export program after two newspapers scooped him on it. White House operators have just been ordered to take down the names of every person who telephones a member of the White House staff. These lists will be useful in assigning blame for future leaks. One staffer, suspicious that the President even checks to learn where his aides are driven in White House cars, wryly observes that it is like living in a "reign of terror."

## Heller For Governor?

WALTER HELLER, the Minnesota economist who has become famous as a principal architect of the current prosperity, flatly rejects suggestions that he run next year for governor of Minnesota. But some of his Washington friends believe that Heller, now only 50 and teaching at the University of Minnesota, would respond to an opportunity to run for the Senate. He is attracted by the tradition of Sen. Paul Douglas (Ill.), an economist-politician, and by the idea of becoming an elected spokesman for the "new economics."

## Goldberg Disarming

ARTHUR GOLDBERG, the UN ambassador, has found a way to disarm his opponents in the State Department. When a department official punches holes in one of his ideas in a strategy session, Goldberg makes a great point of saying how inexperienced and naive he is in foreign affairs. Goldberg's agreeable personality has kept his dealings with the

State Department on an amicable basis so far but the professionals are watching him warily.

## CIA Keeps Hands Off

THE CIA is taking great pains to disassociate itself from the publication of the Penkovsky papers. Policymakers in the State Department fear that the revelations alleged to have been written by the Soviet Colonel before his government executed him for spying may deter two major East-West initiatives. The State Department is anxious to have the President move to liberalize trade with the Russians next January and to have the Senate approve the consular treaty, which will permit the Soviets to open new consular offices in the United States. The emphasis on espionage in the colonel's papers will not increase Congress's readiness to take these steps.

## U.S. Rhodesian Role

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS of the State Department's African bureau last Monday disturbed a group of American businessmen with investments in Rhodesia by saying that this country will follow Britain's lead in the crisis. What Williams did not say was that the Johnson administration is fearful that the British will find a way to involve Uncle Sam directly in the problem and make him pay the costs. The strategy of letting the British call all the shots is calculated to avoid this possibility. The British are privately pessimistic on the situation and refer to Rhodesia as "our Viet Nam."